

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RLWALKINSHAW:JG

APPROVED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS

EA/PHL:ECHULEN

S/IL:DGOOD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ILWU DELEGATES TO PHILIPPINES AUGUST
3-22, 1975

REF: MANILA 10019

1. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REFTEL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. RELATIONS BETWEEN AFL-CIO AND ILWU ARE STILL STRAINED;
WITH THE TEAMSTERS UNION, HOWEVER, THEY ARE JUST THE OPPO-
SITE: THE ILWU AND THE TEAMSTERS HAVE, ON OCCASIONS,
WORKED TOGETHER IN MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

3. THE ILWU DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE DIRECT CONNECTIONS
WITH FREE WORLD TRADE UNION BODIES. IT HAS, OVER THE
YEARS, BEEN ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THE WFTU TRANSPORTA-
TION UNIONS, AND HAS PARTICIPATED IN WFTU-SPONSORED CON-
FERENCES.

4. MOST OBSERVERS OF THE ILWU WOULD CERTAINLY AGREE THAT
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THIS UNION HAS NOT CHANGED ITS RADICAL IMAGE TO ANY

APPRECIABLE DEGREE. BRIDGES HIMSELF HAS MELLOWED POLITICALLY IN RECENT YEARS AND MAY NOT BE AS VOCIFEROUS

AS HE ONCE WAS FOR CAUSES WITH WHICH HE WAS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED. THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS HAD A COMPLETE CHANGE OF HEART AND IS NO LONGER A FORMIDABLE PROPONENT OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES WHICH USUALLY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH THE MAINSTREAM OF THE AMERICAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT REPRESENTED BY THE AFL-CIO.

5. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT EMBASSY SHOULD OFFER FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE BUT SHOULD, IN HELPING TO ARRANGE CONTACTS WITH NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS AND OFFICIALS, ASSURE THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE IDENTITY OF THE ILWU AND PARTICULARLY THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT AN AFFILIATE OF THE AFL-CIO, AND NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VIEWS OF THAT ORGANIZATION. MOREOVER, THE EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VISIT HAS ANY U.S. GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP.

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME REPORT ON VISIT AS SOON AS CONVENIENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE172663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLWALKINSHAW:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750253-0970
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750732/aaaabcuw.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 10019
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF ILWU DELEGATES TO PHILIPPINES AUGUST 3-22, 1975
TAGS: ELAB, RP, US, ILWU
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006